CALGARY metro®
NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Flames are on fire these days

The team is enjoying its longest winning streak since reeling off five victories in a row in March 2012 PAGE 44

Amanda Knox guilty verdict reinstated

But American woman is set to appeal 28-year sentence PAGE 18

FEMALE ENERGY IN THE WORLD OF ANIMATION

EVA LONGORIA NOW DOING THE ANIMATED SERIES MOTHER UP! FOR CITY PAGE 38

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READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Two of Calgarians' favourite football franchises will face off at Super Bowl XLVIII on Sunday. Feature on page 12, plus more coverage on pages 45 and 46. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Core parkade space could jump 20%

Parkade proposals. Growing office space, new downtown attractions to spur demand

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Plans to erect parkades adjacent to prime real estate in the downtown core will take more cars off the road and allow vehicle space to keep up with swelling demand, says the head of the Calgary Parking Authority.

Troy McLeod and his team will bring forward a proposal at a preliminary meeting next week to turn three existing CPA surface lots in the downtown core into multi-level parking facilities by 2018.

The move would add about 1,200 stalls, increasing the authority's total off-street supply by 20 per cent.

"One of the goals is to make sure whatever is constructed provides the maximum efficiency as far as usage goes … we want to make sure there is demand for both day and evening (parking) operations," McLeod said.

The authority is already in the midst of beefing up its on-street stall count by 400 stalls — roughly 10 per cent — a project that began in 2011. Much of the additional space has been generated by turning parallel parking areas to angled ones and loosening restrictions on no-parking zones to allow vehicles during off-peak hours.

City-run lots aren't the only offerings for the vehicles in the core, but parking authority estimates suggest that overall spaces increased by 6,300 between 2009-2012, a roughly 15 per cent increase. Over that time, it's believed office space increased between 5-6 million square feet, about a 12 per cent spike.

But many commuters believe much more space to park their rides is needed. Alexander McDonald works near the Calgary Tower and gave up on trying to find a parking stall in the downtown about a year ago due to both a lack of space and the "sticker shock" he experienced after learning of the monthly rates.

Now, he attempts to park at an LRT lot on the city's far west edge, but says that's often a frustrating experience as well.

"The downtown (parking), well, it's non-existent for commuters," he said. "You really are bound to the public transit, which I'm fine with if it's actually available."

McLeod cautioned that the parkade proposals are preliminary but said one sought at Lot 62 would be adjacent to the redeveloping East Village and provide plenty of space for attendees to the new Central Library and National Music Centre.

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NEWS

Human ashes on the street. Teen girls charged

A car-prowling that ended in human ashes being dumped onto the street has led to the arrest of three teenage girls.

Colleen Ransom kept her daughter Emma's ashes in a green velvet pouch in her truck. But in the early hours of Aug. 2, someone opened the unlocked vehicle in southeast Calgary, stole the pouch and emptied it onto the street.

Ransom says she's relieved that charges have been laid.

"I just hope it will make the girls think a little bit about personal space and belongings and how they're actions may affect someone else," Ransom said in an email to the Calgary police Thursday.

A 15-year-old and a 13-year-old are charged with theft, while another 15-year-old has been charged with theft and property damage.

Emma Ransom, 19, was killed along with two other women in 2009 when the car they were in lost control, crossed the median and slammed into an oncoming car. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colleen Ransom is seen with a picture of her daughter Emma, who died in a 2009 car crash. METRO FILE

Ashley Ross looks at the new billboard on Edmonton Trail NE, while waiting for a bus on Thursday afternoon. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Billboard proclaims: 'Praying won't help'

Who is CFI? Group describes themselves as 'Canada's largest group of secularists, humanists and atheists'

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

The group behind atheism-promoting ads in Vancouver and Sudbury now has a billboard in Calgary informing passersby that "praying won't help."

The ad is the same one that was initially rejected by one advertising agency in Vancouver but later accepted by another, said Nate Phelps, executive director of the Calgary branch of the The Centre for Inquiry Canada (CFI).

"I know that some people are immediately going to be offended by it and see it as an attack on religion," Phelps said. "But I hope that some religious people are at a point in their life that they're willing to look at this as a challenge, and consider it."

Part of the motivation behind the ad, he added, is to counter the claim from some religious advocates that you must believe in God in order to be a moral person.

The billboard is located on the south side of 3603A Edmonton Trail NE and features an image of a young woman with the caption: "Jenn 13:1 Praying won't help. Doing will. Without God. We're all good."

Ashley Ross pondered the billboard's message while waiting for a bus nearby on Thursday afternoon and said she thinks it's a good thing if it starts more conversations about the nature of morality.

"I don't think you need religion for morality at all," she said. "I just think you need to have a good heart and a good mind."

Billboard

The billboard space in Calgary was donated, but the donor wished to remain anonymous, according to CFI-Calgary.

- "I can tell you, he originally reached out to us specifically because of the story in Vancouver," executive director Nate Phelps said.

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Freestyle skiers have a bit of the feline in them: Prof

U of C. Cats' 'hinged back' easily allows for mid-flight rotations similar to what we'll see during Sochi Games

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Cats always land on their feet.

Aerialists and mogul skiers hope for the same.

And a University of Calgary professor is quick to suggest both felines and the freestyle skiers preparing to compete at the upcoming Sochi Games have much in common.

"You can try it at home — you can take the family cat and drop it onto a couch," explained Larry Bates. "It will always end up right side up. It barely needs any room to do it."

The math-sciences guru has spent much time analyzing falling furballs in slow-motion and published some of his findings. What he believes is that the average kitty actually has "two rigid bodies" connected by a "hinged back." This allows its front and back halves to rotate separately — the falling cat essentially rolls through the drop and lands on its feet with zero angular momentum.

It's rare to see big cats in a free fall but even they appear to have remarkable flexibility and it allows them to run fast. Bates pointed out that a cheetah's hind legs come almost parallel to its head when in full sprint.

"This also partially explains why a dog lands on its back," he said. "A dog's back is not flexible enough to do the cat's twist."

Humans appear to be somewhere in the middle. The flexibility in the back of defending Canadian moguls gold medallist Alexandre Bilodeau helped him perform two twists off his first jump at the Vancouver Olympics, land on his feet, and then continue at breakneck speed down the remainder of the bumpy course.

In aerials, the mid-air moves are even more dramatic. In 2001, American Matt Chojnacki completed a Guinness World Record-recognized quadruple-twisting backflip off an aerials jump — he did land on his rump, however.

Bates explained, "If you watch with some of them, they can twist left, stop, then twist right or the reverse.... (An average person) could easily do the same; the only question is how long are you going to be in the air?"

The professor conceded his work doesn't have a great deal of practical application — the world's top freestylers are operating primarily on muscle memory, the advice of their coaches and pure instinct to the point that they know a slight bending of the knees can allow them to accelerate through a jump and hit the unforgiving snow right-side up. He hopes, however, to provide the average Olympic spectator with a bit more insight. Many of the same principles apply in the Summer Games when it comes to sports like diving or trampoline, he said

"My thing is look at what they're doing and think about it and go, 'OK, now I understand how it works,'" Bates said. "You have this thing and it seems like you shouldn't be able to do it. Well, you can do it, because you watch them and it's being done."

Follow Jeremy Nolais on Twitter @Metro_Nolais

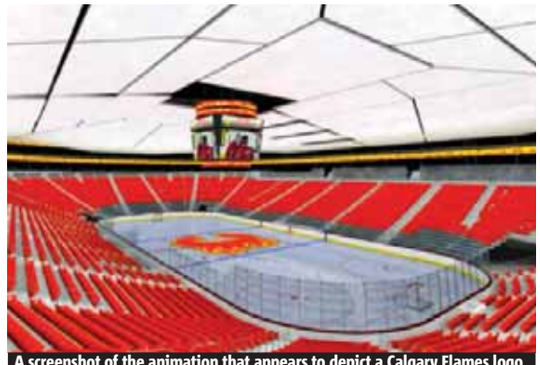
By the numbers

26

The number of freestyle skiers Canada will be sending to Sochi in the moguls, aerials, half pipe and slope-style events.

University of Calgary professor Larry Bates says much can be learned about how freestyle skiers behave in the air by watching a cat in free fall as it works to land on its feet. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Flames. Boss confirms team was pitched arena concept



A screenshot of the animation that appears to depict a Calgary Flames logo at centre ice and Flames players on the simulated Jumbotron. SCREENSHOT/THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL/POPULOUS

The head of the Calgary Flames confirmed Thursday he's seen space-age renderings of a hockey arena that prominently feature his team's logo.

But despite the buzz around what seems to be an apparent leak on a popular TV show, Ken King told Metro there's nothing "tangible" about the concept video.

"That was one of a number of concepts that we've looked at and continue to look at," King said in an interview. "We've made no determinations."

He suggested officials with U.S.-based architecture firm Populous "regret" using the Flames brand in a concept video.

The video, shown on the Discovery Channel, features the Flames logo and players in an example of a futuristic, folding-roof arena.

Populous has designed eight current NHL arenas, including the Consol Energy Centre in Pittsburgh and Pepsi Center in Denver.

King declined to comment further, saying the team will announce plans for a new arena when ready. No timeline was provided. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Crime

Driver sought in hit-and-run

Calgary cops are hunting for a pickup truck driver who they say caused a serious crash by bumping an idling vehicle into free-flowing traffic.

A father and son were inside a 2005 Hyundai Accent waiting to turn left from 14th Street onto eastbound Anderson Road SW at about 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Authorities say the car was rammed forward by a pickup truck.

"The Hyundai ended up in the path of an oncoming westbound Dodge Durango," police said in a news release.

The Durango driver tried to swerve around the Hyundai but couldn't avoid smashing into the vehicle's right side, crumpling the family car, say police.

The front passenger in the Hyundai, a 19-year-old man, suffered critical injuries.

Investigators are looking for the offending vehicle, described as similar to a Dodge Dakota or Toyota Tundra.

Anyone with information is urged to call 403-567-4000. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

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Taxi Confessions, Part 2. Riders dish on bedroom behaviours

Play Taxi Media, the national network of in-taxi touchscreens, surveyed more than 8,000 men and women in December 2013 and January 2014 on their current and past relationships.

The results of this survey may shock and surprise you. Reader discretion is advised.

Have you ever cheated on your partner? Exactly 41 per cent of men and women have cheated on their partner at one point in their current or past relationships.

Have you ever had unprotected sex with someone who was not your partner? Thirty-seven per cent of men and 39 per cent of women have never had unprotected sex with someone other than their partner, but 29 per cent of men and 27 per cent of women have admitted doing so on more than five occasions.

Does your partner (current or past) possess images, videos or voice mails of "intimate moments"? Forty-six per cent of men and 50 per cent of women admit being in possession of some form of recorded intimacy.

How comfortable are you with your partner? More than 75 per cent of men and women admit that "everything goes" when discussing their comfort levels in the bedroom, but more men admitted being timid (21 per cent) in the bedroom than women (16 per cent).

Be sure to check back on Feb. 28 for Part 3 of Play Taxi Media's Taxi Confessions!

PLAY TAXI CANADA

Men more timid

75%

More than 75 per cent of men and women admit that "everything goes" when discussing their comfort levels in the bedroom, but men admitted more times being timid (21 per cent) in the bedroom than women (16 per cent).

SUNSHINE LIST INVADES PRIVACY OF HIGHLY-SKILLED WORKERS

IN DEFENCE OF
Mike Morrison
calgary@metronews.ca

Barring catastrophic events, the choice of what you do for a career and, consequently, how much you get paid, is very much within your control.

After high school some people go right to work. Others go to school — some for large amounts of time — and all of those people might have very different professional outcomes.

Regardless of the career choices we make, we all deserve to be compensated fairly for the job that we've been hired to do, which is why Diane Colley-Urquhart's "Sunshine List" is very dangerous indeed.

Earlier this week, the city council voted to take a closer look at creating a so-called "sunshine list", which essentially reveals the names and salaries of city employees who earn more than $100,000. Unsurprisingly, Diane Colley-Urquhart and Ward Sutherland, neither of whom, it seems, have considered the ramifications of their actions, put forward the motion.

While they hope revealing the list will help tighten the city hall's belt, the underlying issue is that, such a list implies that we're paying our city staff too much money and we should make them "come clean" about their salaries, which is both demoralizing and insulting. Unlike elected officials, who, when you think about it, need absolutely zero professional experience or any form of education to actually be elected.

Many of the city's jobs that come with substantial salaries are for extremely qualified and educated people. Some of the jobs currently posted on Calgary.ca include an infrastructure engineer, couple of financial and other management positions with the Calgary Fire Department. All of these jobs would likely be posted on this sunshine list.

Sunshine list

... such a list implies that we're paying our city staff too much money...

I think, those who support a sunshine list think the city is exorbitantly paying its cooks and lifeguards, when, in reality, the list will reveal the salaries of its scientists, engineers, mental health professionals, urban planners, lawyers, and police officers.

Surely, I'm not the only one who wants these people to be making at least $100,000, and not feel vilified because of it.

These are the people who decide whether our city grows or founders, they make our roads and bridges safe, and now, we're going to shame them by listing their names and salaries? Why would educated people apply for any job at the city, knowing that their salary instantly becomes public information?

We also have to be honest with ourselves and say that $100,000 is not the impressive salary that it used to be, especially in Calgary. According to the 2013 APEGA Salary Survey, which gathered data from 120 Alberta employers in the field of engineering and geoscience, the average engineer starts their career at $71,000 and is expected to make at least $100,000 within eight to 10 years in the workforce.

Meanwhile, the sunshine list would reveal the names and salaries of, roughly, 20 per cent of the City's staff.

There's no doubt that at really high levels of municipal management, salary transparency is very important. If it's really about the money, Couns. Colley-Urquhart and Sutherland should be more interested in developing a trusted standard scale of pay and not exposing regular Calgarians who are qualified for their jobs and have salaries reflective of their skills.

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'Consumer protection'

Home warranty bill becomes law

Starting Saturday all homes sold in Alberta will have to come with a mandatory home warranty.

While 90 per cent of homes sold in Alberta already come with a warranty, the new rules, which were originally supposed to come into play last fall, cover all new construction.

"Starting in February, we're rolling out the strongest consumer protection in Canada for new home buyers. This legislation will help protect the single largest purchase that most people make," said Municipal Affairs minister Ken Hughes, in a release.

The bill applies to all types of homes and requires warranties to offer a minimum level of protection on roof, walls, structural elements and foundation. METRO

March 31

Bargaining deadline with civil servants extended

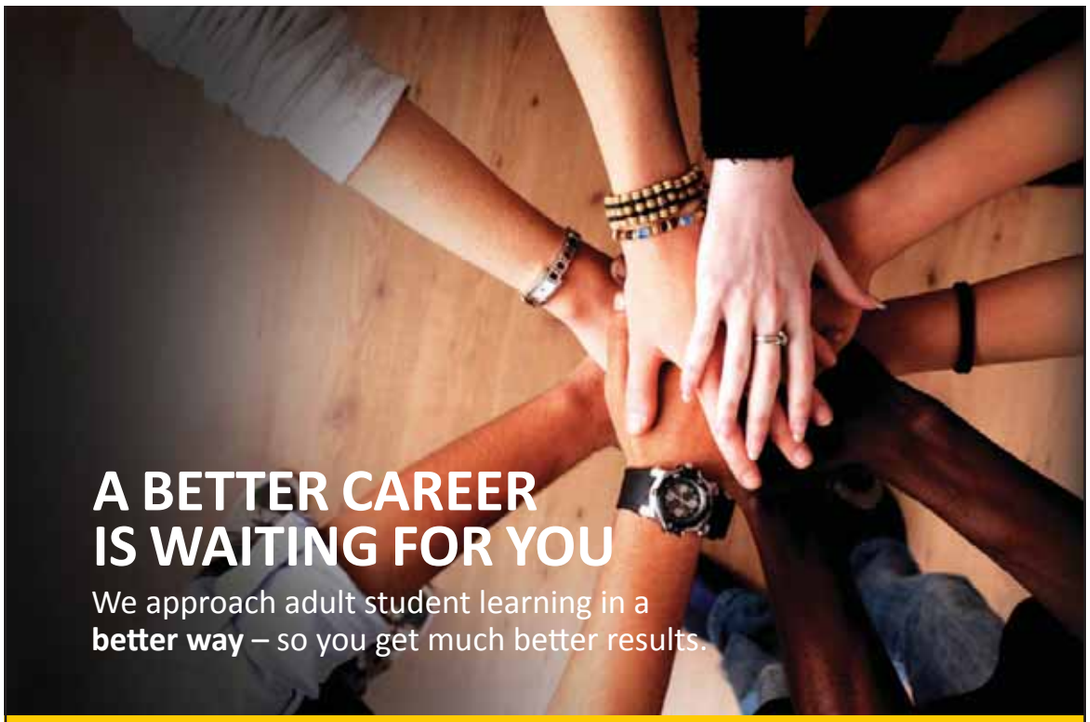
The Alberta government has extended its bargaining deadline with the union representing civil servants.

Deputy Premier Dave Hancock said Thursday the cabinet passed an order in council that extends the deadline to March 31.

The Conservative government passed a law last month forcing a four-year deal on the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees if an agreement wasn't reached by Friday.

Hancock said the government extended the deadline because it is "keen" to reach a negotiated settlement with its 22,000 employees.

AUPE president Guy Smith says the union is ready to get back to the table if the government does come with a new mandate. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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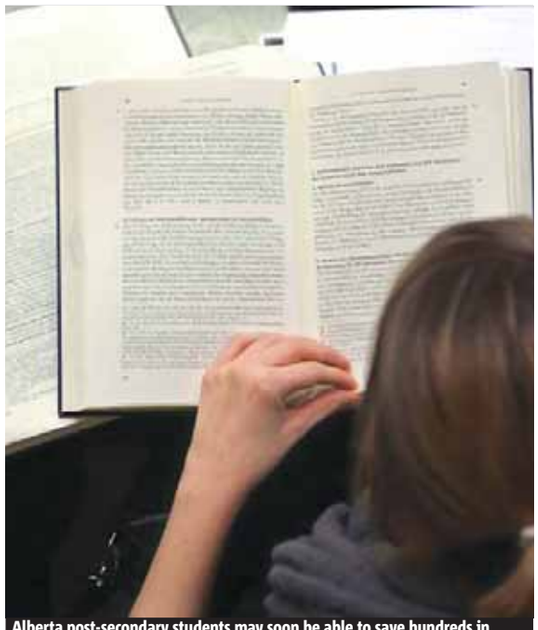

Alberta post-secondary students may soon be able to save hundreds in annual textbook costs if the province moves to adopt an "open" concept recently introduced in B.C. METRO FILE

Post-secondary students push for 'open textbooks'

Book savings.
Early-year course material could be published free online

LEAH GERMAIN
Metro in Edmonton

Alberta post-secondary students are urging provincial representatives to crack open certain textbooks free of charge.

The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) plans to adopt official policy next week calling on the province to adopt an "open textbook" concept they claim is allowing learning to flourish at a reduced cost in B.C.

The model sees mass-use course material published online with a creative commons licence. Students and instructors alike can then download the offerings and modify them as they see fit.

Earlier this month, the B.C. government said nearly 300 post-secondary students had already benefited from its initiative, each saving an average of $146 on their fall-semester book costs.

Jarett Henry, an arts students' representative at the University of Calgary, sees plenty of merit in the approach.

"If you're in a first-year calculus class with 300 students, instead of buying a $200 textbook — that's $60,000 for that class — the textbook is offered for free," he said.

CAUS chair Conner Brown said B.C.'s already published about 30 books under the model.

"There's no reason that Alberta shouldn't be leading the way in this ... it's something we're advocating to the provincial government right now," he said.

But not everyone is sold. Robert Fisher, a University of Alberta business professor, said a potential flaw in the approach is lack of incentive for academics to produce textbooks.

"Nobody is going to want to write a book if they're not going to get some kind of compensation for it," he said. "For most academics, it's not a huge money-making proposition even when it is a successful book."

WITH FILES FROM JEREMY NOLAIS

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A trainer exercises a horse on Monday at Northfield Park in Northfield, Ohio, where the addition of video lottery terminals has reinvigorated the horse racing industry. In Alberta, construction is set to begin on a combination horse racing track and casino just north of Calgary, with the first races set for December. TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horse racing track 'within weeks' of start of construction

Century Downs. Initial work on $24-million facility north of Calgary to begin as soon as weather permits

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Construction of a new horse racing track just north of Calgary is expected to begin within weeks, now that Rocky View council has granted final approval for the project.

"We're just really excited to be finally getting close to where we can see some horses run around the track," United Horsemen of Alberta president Darcy Marler said Thursday, noting it's been nearly six years since the racetrack at Stampede Park closed.

Century Downs Racetrack and Casino will be built near Cross Iron Mills mall, about a kilometre and a half north of Calgary city limits.

"With the development permit in place, construction at the site may start at any time going forward," Century Casinos said this week in a release. "Stripping and grading is planned to begin within the next few weeks, weather permitting."

Rocky View County Coun. Rolly Ashdown said the "haul-in track" will bring spinoff benefits to the area.

"The horses don't actually stay there," Ashdown said of the new track. "So what that means for the agriculture people in the area is that they'll be supplying feed and hay, but not only that, most likely boarding facilities."

Marler said major construction is expected to begin in March and the first standardbred races are scheduled for December.

Details

- The 5.5-furlong (1.1-kilometre) racetrack will be the only horse racing facility in the Calgary area.
- The facility will also include a casino area with 550 gaming machines, a bar, a lounge, a restaurant and off-track betting.
- The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission put a moratorium on new gaming expansion several years ago, but the application for this project was submitted beforehand.

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Broncos and Seahawks fans ready for some football

Super Bowl fun-day. Never mind that we're not American, Calgarians are passionate about their NFL teams

BRYAN WEISMILLER
bryan.weismiller@metronews.ca

For the first time, Calgary's adopted football sons are set to square off on Super Bowl Sunday.

On one side, the Seattle Seahawks stake a large claim in the 403 — largely because their games have long been shown on basic cable TV.

That's exactly how die-hard Seahawks fan Ross Murray got hooked on the birds.

"You're a victim of your own particular environment," said Murray, who admits he can no longer squeeze into his original No. 80 Steve Largent jersey.

"You get stuck watching that because that's the main broadcast from Spokane."

The Denver Broncos line up on the other side of the ball this weekend.

While the CFL Horsemen will always be Calgary's home team, there's still plenty of love for America's equestrian-themed team. On top of admiration for the Orange and Blue, the two cities are linked by economic interests and the Rocky Mountains.

On Thursday, super fan Bryce Forbes easily rattled off every Broncos quarterback since the legendary John Elway retired following back-to-back championships in the late '90s.

Forbes acknowledges a few rough years after that. But he beams with pride when discussing the arrival of Peyton Manning two seasons ago.

"I was jumping up and down when Peyton joined us," Forbes said. "I knew he was going to put us over the top."

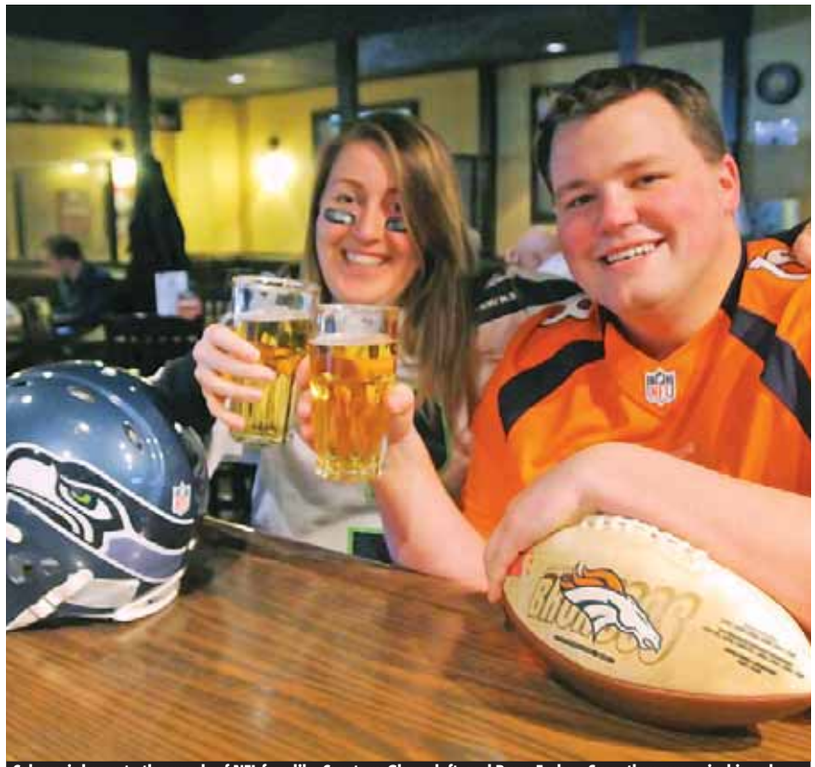
If Seattle goes "over the top" and wins on Sunday, it'll be the team's first Lombardi Trophy since joining the league in 1976.

Seattle booster Courtney Glynn still recalls the pain of coming oh-so-close eight years ago when her team lost the NFL grand finale. Glynn — who donned a Seahawks jersey for wedding photos — has a theory on what went wrong last time.

"The referee took it away from us," she claimed.

And, is 2014 the year of redemption?

"There's no doubt about it."



Calgary is home to thousands of NFL fans like Courtney Glynn, left, and Bryce Forbes. Sure, they were pigskin pals on Thursday at Bottlescrew Bill's, but it could be a different story Sunday on game day.
BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Cowtown connections

Some of Alberta's ties to the Super Bowl

- **Pat Bowlen.** Denver Broncos owner/CEO (30 years); long-time Alberta history dating back to his days in Edmonton playing for the junior football Huskies; member of the Alberta Bar Association and Law Society; still retains his Canadian citizenship; briefly a minority owner of the Calgary Flames (NFL.com)
- **Fred Fleming.** Denver Broncos Director of Special Services (24 years); former Calgary Stampeder and Alberta-based broadcaster.
- **John Hufnagel.** Calgary Stampeders coach and GM; 14th round selection of the Denver Broncos in 1973; played three seasons.
- **Brandon Browner.** Defensive back and all-star with the Calgary Stampeders; pro-bowl defensive back for the Seattle Seahawks, currently under suspension (under appeal).
- **Darryl Hall.** Former linebacker/defensive back and CFL all star for the Calgary Stampeders; played for two years with the Denver Broncos (1993, 1994)
- **Harald Hasselbach.** Former Calgary Stampeders defensive lineman; played for 7 years with the Denver Broncos, having started in Super Bowl XXXIII for them.

Seahawks faithful own Calgary crown: Sportscaster

One team has the 12th Man. The other boasts the Mile-High Salute.

Nobody knows who'll win when the Seattle Seahawks and Denver Broncos go mano-a-mano for American football glory this Sunday.

But there's already a clear winner when it comes to which team has the more passionate fan base in Calgary, according to the long-time play-by-play voice of the Stampeders.

"I'd say Seattle, just because of proximity and visibility," said Mark Stephen, sports director at CHQR Radio.

"They have the following and that's the team more people are leaning towards."

By car, it takes roughly 13 hours to reach the boisterous confines of CenturyLink Field, home of the Seahawks, from Cowtown.

"For most people in the Calgary market, the first time they went to an NFL game was to see the Seahawks," he added.

Still, Stephen suggested it's not a landslide victory for either squad.

"These are the closest teams with ties to Calgary," he said.

In vouching for the Blue-and-Green, Stephen adds his name to similar past proclamations.

In 2012, another media outlet declared Seattle "Calgary's NFL team," based on a survey of readers.

Last October, local-based Jersey City inked a deal with the Seahawks to become the official Canadian retailer for the NFL team.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Suds survey

Beer drinkers face $6.44-price swing for a 12-pack

Football fans stockpiling Canadian suds for Super Bowl Sunday will pay vastly different prices at Calgary liquor stores, a Metro survey has found.

The retail cost of a dozen Molson Canadian bottles ranges between $22.75 and $29.19, as per a phone sample of 24 booze barns.

The average price was within a hair of $25.

Abby's Liquor in Whitehorn was crowned the cheap-beer king, although the owner declined to comment.

Public policy researcher David Campanella explained there will be "quite a bit of variation" among the mom-and-pop shops and "more uniform pricing" among the mega chains.

"Most stores are small corner stores that are unable to stock very much and tend to have more variable pricing," said Campanella, manager of the Parkland Institute and co-author of a 2012 report on liquor privatization in Western Canada.

His report found that Alberta retailers set "mediocre prices" and that the province's low tax rate wasn't being passed down to customers.

Campanella suggested he didn't dissuade people from shopping around, but he acknowledged: "Most people aren't singularly concerned with getting the lowest price."

Roughly 335 liquor stores operate in Calgary, according to information provided by the city's business licensing office.

The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission declined to provide the wholesale price of a 12-pack of Canadian.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

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Sunshine list. Crown lawyers win injunction to prevent pay disclosure

The Alberta government has been ordered by a judge to not release the names and salaries of its Crown prosecutors pending a full hearing into the matter.

Justice Doreen Sulyma of Court of Queen's Bench agreed Thursday with an injunction application that said releasing that kind of information to the public could put prosecutors at further risk of violence or identity theft.

"I do see a difference between (the release of) generic information versus the very personal information that is set to be published (by the province)," Sulyma told the lawyers at the injunction hearing.

"The plaintiff has identified people who might do her harm and has in doing so identified a risk should this publication occur."

No date has been set to hear the merits of the case.

The injunction was brought forward by a Crown prosecutor, whose name is currently under a publication ban, one day before Premier Alison Redford's government was to place online the names and salary details of every government employee who makes $100,000 a year or more.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transparency

The salary details follow up on a promise made last month by Premier Redford after her office was harshly criticized for refusing an order from the privacy commissioner to disclose the severance paid to Redford's former chief of staff, Stephen Carter.

- Carter later announced on Twitter he received $130,000 severance after being on the job for six months, ending in 2012.

Lake Louise. Police dog helps Mounties seize $68,000 in marijuana

Cochrane RCMP and Maggie helped seize 10 lbs. of pot after a traffic stop near Lake Louise Wednesday.

According to police, an eastbound vehicle on the Trans-Canada Highway had a vehicle equipment violation and was subsequently stopped.

Two occupants were held while Maggie, a police service dog, indicated weed was on board the vehicle.

The following search uncovered the stash, estimated to have a street value of $68,000, police said.

Two 19-year-olds from Vernon, B.C., were charged with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

They will appear in Canmore court on April 16.

METRO

Meticulon CEO Garth Johnson and job coach Lauren McGuinness. The company is currently a sub-project of Autism Calgary. METRO FILE

Autistic consultants in high demand: CEO

Meticulon. Calgary startup recruits and trains high-functioning workers for specific jobs

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Calgary-based Meticulon has just opened for business and already it can't keep up with the demand for its consultants, all of whom have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

"It's a good problem to have," CEO Garth Johnson said Thursday. "It's a question of walk before you run."

The startup currently exists as a sub-project of Autism Calgary but has a goal of eventually becoming financially self-sustaining.

Its business model is based on recruiting and training people on the high-functioning end of the autism spectrum and then connecting them with employers looking to fill jobs that require the type of hyper-focus and attention to detail that many people with autism exhibit.

Meticulon only began assessing its first consultant in November — a process which includes hours of rigorous testing in logic, math and language skills — but already it has graduated two people through the program, both of whom have found data analysis jobs.

As news of Meticulon spread, Johnson said there has been an overwhelming expression of interest from prospective employers in a variety of fields.

George Lochhead is considering hiring a consultant through Meticulon to help with the painstaking work of auditing "fine data points" related to resources projects.

"We were looking for people we can retain in this type of job and have enjoyment doing it, and be highly accurate," he said.

Johnson thinks his consultants would be a good fit.

"They're using two people to do a job right now that we think one person could do," he said.

Attention to detail

"They're using two people to do a job right now that we think one person could do."

Meticulon CEO Garth Johnson, on companies that would be a good fit for his grads.

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Health Canada. Morning-after pill to be studied due to questions over efficacy

Health Canada says it is studying the effectiveness of the so-called "morning after" contraceptive pills in the wake of news they aren't as effective in larger women.

The federal drug regulator says it is assessing new data that suggests a higher body weight could reduce the effectiveness of emergency contraceptives.

Health Canada says it is also looking at whether labelling changes are needed for all brands of the pills to reflect the problem.

The department's statement comes two months after French manufacturer HRA Pharma announced its emergency contraception pill doesn't work in women who weigh more than 176 pounds.

There are four brands of morning-after pills available without prescription in Canada: Next Choice, from Cobalt Pharmaceuticals; HRA Pharma's NorLevo; Option 2, from Perrigo International and Plan B from Women's Health Inc.

Health Canada says if it decides action needs to be taken, it will work with manufacturers to update labels and inform consumers.

The pills contain higher levels of levonorgestrel than standard oral contraceptives and work by preventing ovulation or fertilization of an egg. They can be taken up to 72 hours after unprotected sex or a contraceptive accident such as a condom breaking.

The pills do not have any impact if a woman has already become pregnant.

Health Canada says it is aware of a recent statement from the European Medicine's Agency alerting consumers to the fact that NorLevo's labelling had been altered to make reference to the observation that weight affects the efficacy of the medication.

The added wording says the pill's efficacy is reduced in women weighing 75 kilograms (165 pounds) or more, and the pill doesn't work for women who weigh more than 80 kilograms (175 pounds).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HRA Pharma announced its emergency contraception pill doesn't work for women over 176 pounds. Health Canada is looking into potential label changes for morning-after pills. REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ford: I'm no fan, but Bieber's not that bad

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is questioned by reporters at city hall in Toronto on Thursday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'He's a young guy.' Despite a preference for Rush, Zeppelin, Toronto mayor sticks up for pop star recently charged with assault in his city

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford is sticking up for another headline-grabbing Canadian — Justin Bieber.

Ford was asked about the pop singer when he spoke by phone today to the Washington, D.C.-based Sports Junkies radio show.

Ford said Bieber is only 19 and asked the radio personalities, who called Bieber "Canada's worst export," to think back to when they were that age. On Wednesday, Bieber was charged in Toronto with assault.

Ford's comment on Bieber was: "He's a young guy, 19 years old. I wish I was as successful as he was."

Ford says he's never met Bieber and is not a fan of his music, preferring Rush and Led Zeppelin.

Ford was also asked by the radio hosts about a lawsuit filed against him from his sister's ex-boyfriend, who alleged the mayor conspired to have him attacked in jail to prevent Ford's illicit behaviours from becoming publicly known.

The mayor said he would not discuss the matter since it is before the courts, but his lawyer said Wednesday the allegations are "without fact or foundation."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bieber's toxicology report

A toxicology report released Thursday shows that Justin Bieber tested positive for marijuana and Xanax after his arrest on DUI charges in Florida last week.

- The report also shows no presence of other illicit drugs in Bieber's system.
- A previous report found that breath tests placed Bieber's blood-alcohol content below the .02 level considered intoxicated for under-21 drivers.

Syrian toddler rescued from rubble

Fourteen-month-old Ghina Khalil is recovering with her family in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo after being buried in rubble.

The stunning rescue, caught on video, corresponds to Associated Press reporting of events.

The footage shows a group of men frantically digging in the dusty rubble of her home after an alleged airstrike on Jan. 22.

Amid cries of "God is greatest," the toddler's curly-haired head can be seen emerging from the dust, as the men scoop away handfuls of crumbled concrete with their bare hands. With her arms freed, the girl reaches up to wipe her eyes in a sign of life.

According to the activist who filmed the video, uploaded to the Internet by the Nur Media Centre, the girl was completely buried for at least three minutes and her mother was killed in the attack. A video taken later showed Khalil in new clothes, with no visible injuries.

The Syrian government has been accused of using airstrikes and rocket attacks indiscriminately against residential areas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this image taken from a Jan. 22 video, men dig 14-month-old Ghina Khalil out of rubble in Aleppo, Syria. NUR MEDIA CENTRE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Handed 28 years, Knox set to appeal once more

Guilty verdict upheld. U.S. defendant calls ruling 'unjust'

An appeals court in Florence on Thursday upheld a guilty verdict against U.S. student Amanda Knox and her ex-boyfriend for the 2007 murder of her British roommate. Knox was sentenced to 28 and a half years in prison, raising the spectre of a long legal battle over her extradition if the conviction is confirmed.

Lawyers for Knox and her co-defendant, Raphael Sollecito, vowed to appeal to Italy's highest court, a process that will take at least another year and drag out a legal saga that has divided court watchers in three nations.

In a statement from her mother's home in Seattle, where she had awaited the verdict, Knox said she was "frightened and saddened."

The court reinstated the first guilty verdicts against Knox and Sollecito from 2009 for the death of Meredith Kercher, which had been overturned in 2011. But Italy's Supreme Court vacated that decision and sent the case back for a third trial.

Kercher, 21, was found dead Nov. 2, 2007, in the bedroom of an apartment she shared with Knox in the Italian city of Perugia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dismayed

"She was petrified. Silent."

Carlo Dalla Vedova, Amanda Knox's Italian lawyer, explaining his client's reaction over the phone when he told her of the sentence set by a Florence appeal court.

A woman believed to be Amanda Knox is hidden under a jacket while being escorted outside Knox's mother's home in Seattle on Thursday. Knox said she is frightened and saddened by the 28-year sentence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine crisis. Yanukovych takes sick leave, conspiracy theories abound

In the midst of Ukraine's unending political crisis, its embattled president went on sick leave Thursday, unleashing a wave of conspiracy theories while protesters have been demanding his ouster for months.

Was the 63-year-old Viktor Yanukovych really sick? Or was he feigning illness in preparation for something else, like dodging responsibility for a violent police crackdown on the protesters? Maybe he was ready to give in and hand over power to the opposition but hardliners in his government wouldn't let him?

The presidential website says he has an acute respiratory illness and a high fever.

Vitali Klitschko, leader of the opposition party Udar, suggested that Yanukovych could be pretending to take himself out of action in preparation for imposing a state of emergency. That has been a persistent worry of the opposition since protesters clashed violently with police two weeks ago, killing three demonstrators.

Two months of large anti-Yanukovych protests have at times paralyzed the centre of Kyiv. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters practise battle moves at Kyiv's Independence Square on Thursday. Ukraine's embattled president, Viktor Yanukovych, announced he's taking a sick leave as the political crisis shows no signs of resolution. EMILIO MORENATTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bell Let's Talk

Egypt arrests 11 Brotherhood members for their Facebook pages

E-revolution. Social media rants bring crackdown; but Morsi's former government also arrested Internet protesters

This screen grab taken Thursday shows the Facebook page of The Revolutionaries of Bani Suef. Their administrator was arrested. VIA FACEBOOK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian authorities arrested 11 Muslim Brotherhood members accused of running Facebook pages that incite violence against the police, expanding a crackdown on followers of ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi to include social media.

The arrests Wednesday and Thursday are a sign that after largely crippling the group in a wave of arrests and killings of protesters, security agencies are going after younger members using the Internet to keep protests alive and looking for evidence of links to a growing insurgency and violent backlash.

Bombings and drive-by shootings targeting police officers have accelerated in retaliation for the killings and jailing of Brotherhood members and other Islamists. The attacks have been claimed by an al-Qaida-inspired militant group, but the government accuses Morsi's Brotherhood of orchestrating the violence and has branded it a terrorist group, an accusation they deny. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tough new law planned

According to the Al-Shorouk newspaper, Egypt is preparing a new anti-terrorism law that criminalizes websites that promote "ideas or beliefs calling for use of force or violence."

- During Mohammed Morsi's one-year presidency, there were several arrests linked to postings seen as blasphemous or offensive to Islam.
- Suicide bombings, attacks and drive-by shootings by militants have targeted senior cops, including Lt. Col. Mohammed Mabrouk, who was investigating Brotherhood leaders and was killed in November.

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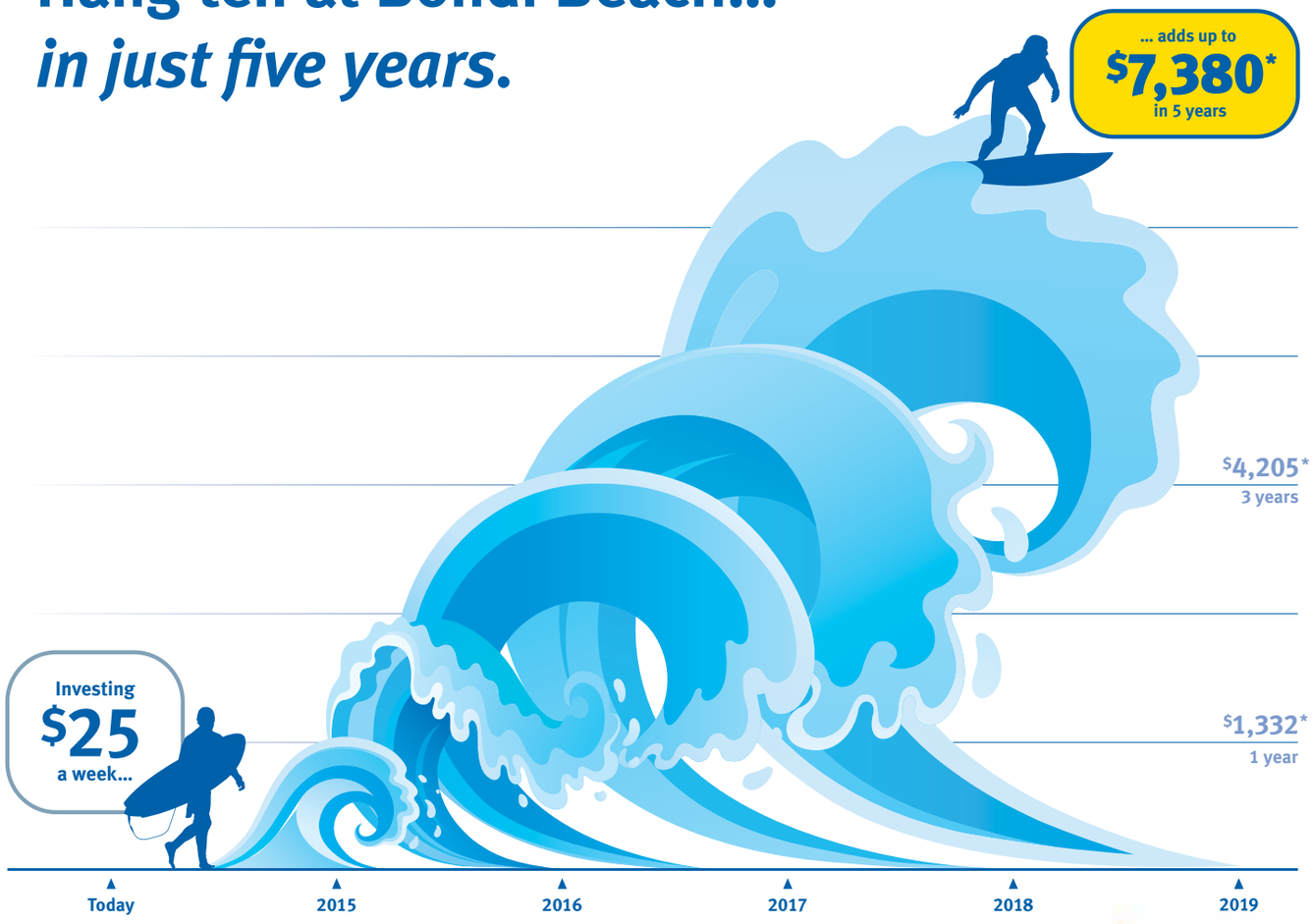

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Summit. Unrest in Africa causes alarm for leaders

African leaders met in Ethiopia Thursday at a summit to discuss outbreaks of violence in South Sudan and Central African Republic, as well as food security across the continent.

Opening the African Union summit Thursday, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said he was "deeply concerned by the emergence of new conflicts" that threaten Africa's collective peace and stability. The summit is being attended by 34 African leaders.

In South Sudan, where violence since mid-December has displaced more than 700,000 people, the United Nations estimates that 3.7 million people are now severely food-insecure.

In Central African Republic, nearly one million people have been displaced around the country by sectarian violence pitting Muslims against Christians. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece

Police detain boat death protesters

Greek police detained dozens of people Thursday during a protest at the merchant marine office over the deaths of immigrants whose boat sank as it was being towed by the Coast Guard. Twelve people, mostly children, are believed to have died last week when a small boat carrying 28 people sank in the Aegean Sea. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Artwork recovery efforts slammed

Germany must make a stronger effort to identify and return thousands of looted art pieces the Nazis took from Jews, the president of the World Jewish Congress said Thursday as he met with top government officials in Berlin. Ronald Lauder says legislation needs to be changed in order to facilitate its return. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panama releases crew of seized North Korean ship

A sweet distraction. Captain of cargo vessel and two of his crew are facing arms trafficking charges

The North Korean cargo ship Chong Chon Gang sits in Sherman Bay near Colon City, Panama. The vessel was seized in July 2013 for carrying arms which were to be repaired and returned to Cuba. ANULFO FRANCO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panama's judicial authorities have ordered the release of 32 of 35 crew members of a North Korean ship detained last July for carrying hidden arms from Cuba and they were working Thursday on paperwork needed to leave.

Prosecutor Nathaniel Murgas said the captain and two other crew members will remain to face arms trafficking charges.

He said a search of the ship turned up documents that showed "that the ship's captain, first officer and political officer had been given instructions about what to do if the illegal shipment was detected. There were certain recommendations.

"Together with that were the statements by the rest of the crew, who said they were employees on the vessel, but not responsible" for the shipment, he said. "It was based on that they decided to free the other 32."

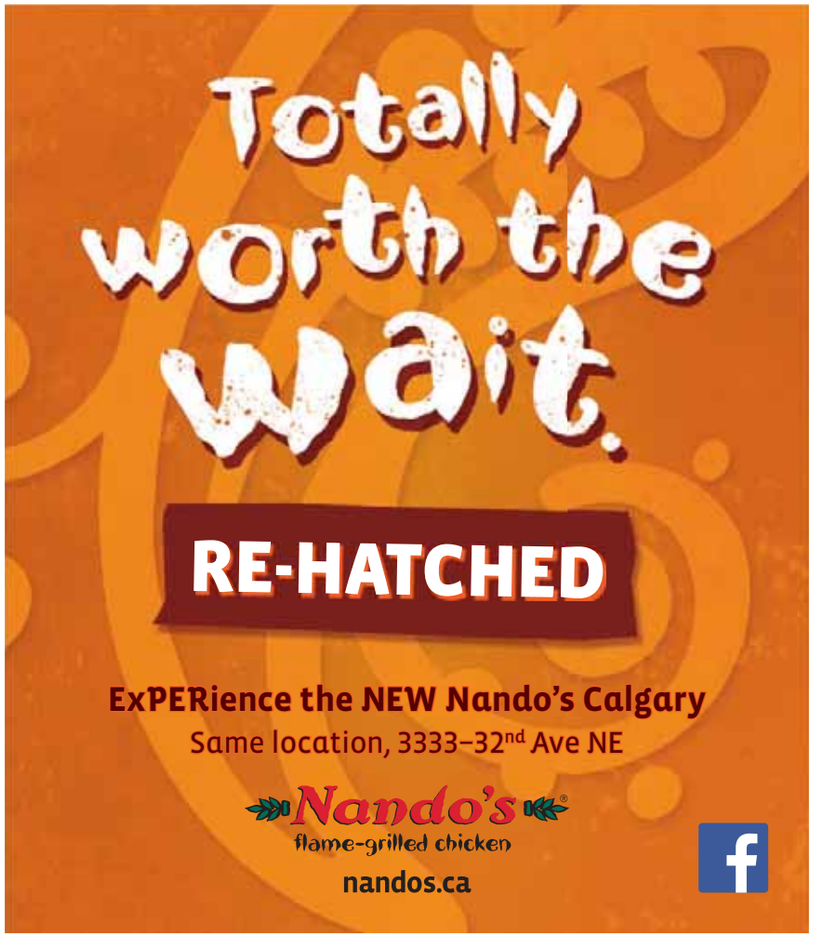
The Chong Chon Gang was carrying Cuban fighter jets and missiles. The owners agreed to pay a $670,000 US fine this month to release the ship.

The ship was headed from Cuba to North Korea when it was stopped in the canal on July 15 based on intelligence that it may have been carrying drugs.

The Cuban military equipment was found beneath sacks of sugar. Panama has not released the more than 10,000 tonnes of sugar or the arms.

After the seizure, Cuba said the cargo included "obsolete defensive weapons" including two MiG-21 fighter jets and 15 motors, nine missiles in parts, and two anti-aircraft systems that were being shipped to North Korea "to be repaired and returned."

A preliminary report by UN experts determined that the seized ship violated UN sanctions against North Korea. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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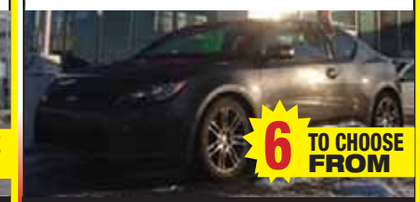

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Sex ring had Super Bowl 'special': Cops

'Party packs.' Texts advertising cocaine and sex combos were allegedly sent to clients

Officials say 18 people are being rounded up in New York City on allegations they sold "party packs" of cocaine and sex to high-end clients and texted clients to advertise ahead of this week's Super Bowl festivities.

The officials say the arrests follow an 11-month investigation by state and city authorities. The law-enforcement officials with knowledge of the operation spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to disclose it before court filings Thursday.

They say surveillance shows the ring laundered money and credit cards through clothing, wig, beauty supply and limousine businesses and targeted wealthy out-of-town customers, especially during large events.

Prostitutes would bring cocaine to clients who ordered the so-called party packs.

The text sent 10 days before the Super Bowl says "new sexy & beautiful girls R in town waiting for u."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman at a press conference Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal

Woman dies after scarf caught in escalator

A woman was strangled and died Thursday after her scarf and then her hair got caught in the mechanism of a Montreal subway escalator.

Police say the victim was a 48-year-old woman.

The accident happened at around 9:15 a.m., during the morning rush hour, at the Fabre station in the city's north end.

A Montreal police spokesman said the woman was travelling down the escalator toward the subway platform when her scarf was trapped.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sochi. Olympic organizers 'clarify' statement — athletes free to express themselves

A day after the head of the Sochi organizing committee appeared to contradict IOC president Thomas Bach on the rights of Olympic athletes to freely express themselves at news conferences, organizers issued a backpedalling statement Thursday "to clarify" their position.

Dmitry Chernyshenko said Wednesday that he didn't think athletes were allowed to speak about non-sporting issues at official Olympic news conferences. On Monday, Bach said athletes would be free to do so.

"The Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee would like to clarify comments attributed to Dmitry Chernyshenko yesterday concerning athletes being able to express themselves during press conferences. Sochi 2014 are fully aligned with the position of the International Olympic Committee," the committee said in a statement.

"Mr. Chernyshenko simply meant that athletes are free to express themselves at a press conference — but of course they cannot use a press conference to make a demonstration or protest — similarly, they cannot use any Olympic venue to demonstrate."

Athletes are forbidden from making political demonstrations or gestures on the medal stand and at other venues by the Olympic Charter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hibernation during big chill freezes bottom line

Barbers Tarris Horton, left, and England Wesley play a video game, with one-year-old Kannon Wesley watching at right, while they wait for customers at Hair on the Floor Barbershop in Covington, Ky. Wesley says business at the barbershop, which depends heavily on walk-in clientele, has been down about 90 per cent in the past several weeks. The January deep freeze wrought by the polar vortex in the U.S. Midwest, a big snowfall in the Northeast and abnormal cold and snow in the Deep South has moved many to hibernate — hitting hair salons and other businesses that rely on walk-ins and appointments, including restaurants and health-care specialists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Star fizzes up debate over Israeli settlements

Oxfam tiff. Scarlett Johansson opts to stick with Tel-Aviv-based company SodaStream

Scarlett Johansson has parted ways with the international charity Oxfam because of a dispute over her work for SodaStream, a company operating in a West Bank settlement.

Johansson became the latest casualty of a widening campaign to boycott the settlements, drawing attention to a larger debate about whether Israel will become an international pariah, at a steep economic price, if it fails to reach a peace deal with the Palestinians. Israeli Finance Minister Yair Lapid stoked such fears this week, warning that if negotiations break down "and we enter a reality of a European boycott, even a very partial one, Israel's economy will retreat backward and every Israeli citizen will feel it straight in the pocket." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under pressure

"I remain a supporter of economic cooperation and social interaction between a democratic Israel and Palestine."

Scarlett Johansson, responding, in a public statement released Friday, Jan. 24, to the outcry over her relationship with SodaStream.

Trimming fat

Best Buy Canada cuts 950 workers

Best Buy Canada is laying off about 950 full-time employees as the company reworks its operations to reduce layers of management and combines some of its sales departments.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economist warns

Loonie may go as low as 85 cents

Watch for the loonie to lose more of its luster this year, according to two well-known bank economists.

Craig Alexander, chief economist for TD Economics, warned that consumers could see the Canadian dollar slide as low as 85 cents US by mid-year — a level it hasn't closed below since May 2009.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 89.56¢ (+0.10¢)

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A Director, under the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act will make an application for: **Permanent Guardianship Order;** of your child born on **May 17, 2013.**

If you wish to speak to this matter in court, you MUST appear in court on this date. You do have the right to be represented by a lawyer. If you do not attend in person or by a lawyer, an Order may be made in your absence and the Judge may make a different Order than the one being applied for by the Director. You will be bound by any Order the Judge makes.

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THE HAT THAT LAUNCHED 76K RETWEETS

THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

Here's some of the great stuff that's been trending on social media — not including #JustinPleaseComeToTurkeyOnHolidays and Justin turning himself in to Toronto police. Sorry, I need a break from the Biebs — or sabbatical.

1 **Bell Let's Talk.** The hashtag #bellletstalk lit up to the tune of three million tweets for the Fourth Annual Bell Let's Talk Day Tuesday, where Canadians break the silence around mental illness. More than $5 million was raised to support mental-health initiatives across the country. Even Rogers tweeted out to use the hashtag. Beautiful day showcasing power of Twitter to effect change.

2 **Arby's.** What people loved the most about the Grammys was Pharrell's Hat — it resembled Smokey Bear and Arby's restaurant logo. Hats off to Arby's who won the day with the tweet: "Hey @Pharrell, can we have our hat back?" It garnered more than 76,000 retweets. Pharrell responded: "Y'all tryna start a roast beef?" Another coup for brands using humour.

3 **Titanic recreation.** Leonardo DiCaprio crashed Jonah Hill's SNL monologue as Hill mocked his Wolf of Wall Street co-star. Jonah apologized and said to soothe his nerves, could they do that thing "that made me feel safe" on the movie set. That thing was a reenactment of the Titanic "I'm flying" scene.

4 **Terrence Ross.** In a spectacular display, the Toronto Raptor forward — last year's all-star slam dunk champion — put on a game for the ages, scoring 51 points against the LA Clippers and tieing Vince Carter's team record. What makes it more remarkable? Ross entered the game averaging just 9.3 points per game.

5 **Air Canada comedy skit.** Shaun Majumder did a parody of Air Canada's customer service on This Hour Has 22 Minutes, playing "Trevor" an Air Canada rep who outlines ridiculous options for people needing help. The point: Customer service is No. 1. So don't just say it, make it No. 1.

6 **Instagrammy hit.** An Instagram montage summed up style at the Grammys with a picture of Stormtroopers (Daft Punk), Wednesday from The Addams Family (Lorde), a Canadian Mountie (Pharrell's hat) and a wet dog (Beyoncé's hair). Suddenly, I feel just fine being ordinary in plaid and skinny jeans.

7 **Budweiser ad.** A heartwarming Super Bowl ad called Puppy Love starring a Clydesdale that comes to the rescue of a golden retriever puppy had more than five million views on YouTube (#bestbuds) since being released. Goes to show once again that funny and/or sentimental ads that don't push the product down your throat have the most impact.

8 **Poutine.** Watch out for La Poutine Week, which runs Feb. 1 to 7 as more than 100 restaurants across the country will be creating their own version of poutine for $10 or less, and Canadians will get the chance to choose their faves. #lapoutineweek.

9 **Bachelor Wedding.** Catherine Giudici and Sean Lowe tied the knot in front of family, friends and past stars from The Bachelor and The Bachelorette. Lowe's father officiated the ceremony and called it "an epic fairy tale." Slight proof that reality TV works in the real world sometimes.

10 **Flappy Bird.** This frustrating game with rudimentary graphics involving a flapping bird that has to stay airborne while avoiding pipe barriers is inexplicably all the rage right now on the app store. It's utterly addictive and is being hailed as the new Angry Birds. Goes to show again there is no accounting for taste.

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ZOOM

This calls for an opera!

ROBERTUS PUDYANTO/GETTY IMAGES

For the Year of the Horse, of course

Actors perform on stage during The Beauty of China Opera show at Pakuwon Imperial Ballroom in Surabaya, Indonesia, as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations known as the Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year, welcoming the Year of the Horse.

Chinese communities around the world were gearing up for the holiday. Based on the Lunisolar Chinese calendar, the new year is celebrated from the first day of the first month of the lunar year and ends with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day.

GETTY IMAGES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

3.6B

China's Lunar New Year migration is often referred to as the largest movement of people anywhere, with 3.6 billion trips of all lengths by bus, plane and train expected to be made over the 40-day travel rush. While still an annual ritual for millions working far from home, such journeys are being shunned by many of the newly prosperous who are increasingly using the holiday to fly to overseas.

A tree decorated with red lanterns in Beijing. Mainland China will be virtually shut down for the next seven days. FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
Metro Online

A month has passed since the New Year — are your diet plans still on track? Don't feel ashamed if you've let them slip; it happens to the best of us. Here are some apps to help you maintain your diet goals:

ISTOCK

My Fitness Pal:

Track your weight, food intake and activities with this free app. You can set calorie intake goals, log your meals, and find nutritional info through the food diary. Each time you log in, you'll be reminded of your achievements. The weight loss is tracked on a chart to show your progress or lack of. You can also connect to your "fitness pals," if you need a friend to keep you motivated.

FatSecret (free):

Find out the nutrition information from your favourite foods, brands and even restaurants with this free app. There's a barcode scanner for info from store bought items. A food diary will help you keep track of your diet, along with the exercise log and diet calendar to track calories consumed and burned. It also provides healthy recipes.

My Net Diary ($9.99):

Make tracking your weight and food intake hassle-free with this easy-to-use app. It contains an extensive food database providing nutritional info for your favourite products. One neat feature is, if a food is not in the database, you can use the PhotoFood service to send a photo of the item to My Net Diary and they will enter or update the food for you. The app will also send you a weekly analysis of your progress, including your water intake.

Twitter

Beloved Internet cat

@colonel_meow

passed away at the age of two years, three months. Do you have any special final thoughts for the ultimate furry feline?

@FMNsocial: Enjoy the Rainbow Bridge, dear @colonel_meow Your furry face will be missed!

@k_kosie RIP @k_kosie colonel_meow #neverforget furry paw of dictatorship. #scotch for all in his honour

@rebverb Hopefully he gets the military funeral he so deserves. #RIPColonelMeow

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metro

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Synopsis

Based on Joyce Maynard's novel of the same name, the action in Labor Day begins when a wounded, escaped criminal (Josh Brolin) hides out in the home of two strangers, Adele, a depressed divorcee (Kate Winslet) and her 13-year-old son, Henry (Gattlin Griffith). What begins as a hostage situation slowly changes as the stranger's sensitive side is revealed and he becomes a surrogate father figure for Henry and companion for Adele.

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Steve: ●●●○○

Josh Brolin and Kate Winslet star in Labor Day, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

A tale of love and pies

Labor Day. Josh Brolin and Kate Winslet showcase an unexpected spark in this sweet Stockholm Syndrome story

Richard: Mark, it's been said that 90 per cent of the director's job is casting, and on that score Jason Reitman has knocked it out of the park. Labor Day is essentially a three-hander with Winslet, Brolin and Griffith responsible for the emotional weight of the movie. Griffith is convincing as a youngster abruptly placed in the position of son and surrogate spouse, but it is the leads that really carry the movie. Winslet is delicate and effective as the world-weary Adele while Brolin hands in another of his manly man performances, tempered by a hidden sensitive side. I'm curious to hear what you thought.

MB: You bet it's the acting that makes this one work, Richard! There's genuine chemistry between Winslet and Brolin. Brolin is so good I could actually believe his escaped convict could be innocent — no small feat. But the movie, set in 1987, feels like it could have been made in 1987. It's so square compared with Reitman's other work, which I adore. Only someone who's never seen a movie before wouldn't be able to figure out where the story was headed. But you can admire the film's quiet, stately pace, even if the whole thing feels like it's ripped out of a Harlequin romance novel. Don't get me started on the pie scene.

RC: I liked the pie scene. I don't want to give anything away for people who haven't seen the movie, but imagine the scene from Ghost with pastry instead of pottery and you'll get the idea. It's just wonky enough to spice up the story, and I thought Brolin pulled it off. Of all the leading men out there right now he's the only one I can think of to have the old school Lee Marvin grit to still look badass while folding pastry.

MB: Me, I just laughed, until I was shushed by a middle-aged woman in the back row ... I think the movie would have been more interesting if you weren't convinced from the start that Brolin was a good guy and if Winslet's romantic despair weren't quite so acute. Luckily, Griffith provides a good foil for both of them and distracts the viewer from these issues. One thing I really liked about the movie is its shortened time frame: the entire story takes place over one weekend and it sharpens the plot and the tension.

RC: Even though the movie takes place over one long weekend it does take its time to develop the relationship between Adele and the mysterious stranger. Because Reitman takes his time unveiling the relationship, it's a bit more believable than the story might otherwise have been. You're left with the question, "Is it Stockholm Syndrome or true love?"

MB: True need, Richard, and that's close enough for me.

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Comedy

That Awkward Moment

Director. Tom Gormican

Stars. Zac Efron, Michael B. Jordan

That Awkward Moment is aptly titled mainly because this film is full of them. Zac Efron is one of three libertine buddies transitioning from the sex-addled single life to monogamous devotion. The predictable premise presupposes its cleverness but these one-note characters simplify complex relationships to the banal. And the female characters are even more witless. Efron's supposedly astute love interest nonchalantly excuses his admitted assumption she was a prostitute because she keeps condoms. **STEVE GOW**

Elizabeth Banks is one sexy Lego

The Lego Movie. Actress talks about being the voice of a figurine and working with Morgan Freeman

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Since Elizabeth Banks voices Wyldstyle, one of the mini-figure heroes of The Lego Movie, it makes sense to meet for an interview at L.A.'s Legoland amusement park. But it's still fairly surreal, as surroundings go.

Is this the weirdest junket experience you've ever had?
I'll tell you, this is the most exciting junket I've ever been on because Morgan Freeman's here. He's a genius. Everything he says is gold. I mean, I edit [myself] because I still want to get jobs. Whereas Morgan Freeman's like, "F— it. I'm on the other side. They're going to hire me no matter what."

And he's right. They should, because he's a genius.

The running joke about your character's name is everyone assumes she's a DJ or something. So if you were actually a DJ, what would be your DJ name?
Um… I'm definitely not a DJ. I'm actually terrible with all that stuff. But my DJ name would be… like, Solo Claudia Goldenschwartz. "Solo" because I'm a solo DJ, I do it on my own.

Your character, while being a Lego figure, actually has curves.
Well, they're kind of drawn-on curves. Wonder Woman does, too. She's got, like, a sweetheart neckline, too. She's got the impression of it, anyway.

Did the curves strike you as odd?
I didn't notice, actually. But it wouldn't bother me. I'm OK with it. I mean, if someone's like, "She's a really sexy Lego, is that weird?" That's on you, man. Who knows, you might be a boob man. Look, I'm here to blaze a trail, and if that's how I do it, so be it.

While this is an animated film, did you get to work much with your co-stars?
I was really lucky on this. I recorded probably four sessions with Chris Pratt and then two sessions with Chris and me and Will Arnett. The three of us together, that was a very fun time. It was a lot of wasted time making each other laugh with jokes that are completely inappropriate for a children's movie.
What sorts of jokes are we talking about?
Well, Batman has a real kinky side to him, let's just say that. Look at him. He's in basically an S&M outfit.

What's coming up next for you?
My life right now is all about Pitch Perfect 2. I produced the first movie, I'm producing [and directing] the second movie. It's all about getting that script ready to go into production, bringing the cast back together and getting it ready for a release in 2015.

Elizabeth Banks stars in The Lego Movie. GETTY IMAGES

Banks plays Wyldstyle in The Lego Movie. CONTRIBUTED

ELLE
Karen Durbin
"A ROMANCE TO ROOT FOR."
Los Angeles Times
Betsy Sharkey
"RIGHT UP THERE WITH REITMAN'S BEST."
NEW YORK POST
Lou Lumenick
"WINSLET AND BROLIN HAVE WONDERFUL CHEMISTRY. This gem is part coming-of-age drama and part thriller, as well as being SWOONINGLY ROMANTIC."
Kate Winslet Josh Brolin
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Bookish Bob Balaban finally gets a gun

The Monuments Men. Bob Balaban sheds his wallflower persona in war film about taking back art from the Nazis

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Bill Murray and Bob Balaban star in The Monuments Men, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

One of the first things Bob Balaban's Broadway impresario says when tapped to join the Monuments Men — tasked to recover stolen art from the Nazis in the twilight of the Second World War — is, "Would I get to kill anyone? I'd really like to kill somebody." It's an unexpected edge coming from Balaban, an actor better known for his bookishness. But every actor likes a challenge, he insists.

How did you feel about your character being presented as a somewhat tough guy? Is that new for you?
You know, I never really thought about that part too much. I mostly thought, oh my God, I'm going to have to have a gun. What do I do? So I spent a large amount of time training to use my weapon — which I only use for 13 seconds in the beginning of the movie. We actors always like to do things we're not familiar with.

Have you actually carried a gun in a film before?
I was fired the last time I drew a gun in a movie. (laughs) I was in a Woody Allen movie where I had a gun. We shot my scene 900 times, and Woody kept saying, "You don't look very dangerous." I went to a screening of the movie and I said to my wife, "See that little house over there? I'm going to come walking out." And the door opened and Wally Shawn came out. I got fired and I didn't even know I was fired.

So Wallace Shawn is more threatening than you with a gun?
Wally was better than I was. When I saw him do it I thought, no wonder! That's what Woody Allen was talking about.

I mean, don't take this the wrong way, but you're kind of the personification of NPR.
That's funny. It's not a bad thing at all, and I deeply appreciate it. I probably don't really deserve you to think that, in substance anyway, but I do believe in surface and texture it goes well. It's right in my casting wheelhouse. I don't get many cowboys.

So, it's Oscar season, and this film was originally supposed to be in contention. How do you feel about the delay?
I think it's a good thing to be delayed, because there's so many good big, small and middle-size movies this December. I think when this movie comes out in February there will be a lot more people able to focus on it, be aware of it and go to it than there would've been in December, which was so overcrowded.

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 31 TO THURS., FEB. 06 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Canyon Meadows
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47 Ronin (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:50-9:55
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:55-6:45-9:40
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-7:30 Mon 1-3:30 Tue-Thu 1-3:30-7:30
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:45-7:25-10
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7-9:35
Free Birds (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:20
Groundhog Day (STC) Sun 1-4-7-9:30 Mon 7
Grudge Match (14A) Fri-Thu 9:50
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (PG) Fri-Thu 6:40-9:35
The Saratov Approach (PG) Fri-Sat 1:35-4:05-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:05-7:20-9:45
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-7:15-9:55
Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:05

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American Hustle (14A) Fri 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:45
Bolshoi Ballet: Lost Illusions (STC) Sun 12:55
Frozen (G) Fri 2:05 Sat-Sun 12:10 Mon-Thu 2:05
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 5-7:30 Sat-Sun 2:35-5-7:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:55
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Fri-Thu 1:35
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sat 1:15 Sun 4:45 Mon-Thu 1:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:45-8:10 Sun 8:10 Mon-Thu 4:45-8:10
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 9:55 Mon-Thu 9:30
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri 2:45-5:40-8-10:30 Sat 12:45-3:10-5:40-8-10:30 Sun 12:45-3:10-5:40-8-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:50
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 1:55-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sat-Sun 12-2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:55-7:35-10:05
Labor Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:45-4:25-7:05-10 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:45-4:25-7:05-9:40 No Passes Wed 4:25-7:05-9:40 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:25-7:05-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
The Land Before Time (STC) Sat 11
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Thu 9:30
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:20-7:15-10:20 Sun 1:25-4:20-7:15-10 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:15-10
The Monuments Men (PG) Thu 7-9:55
The Nut Job (G) Fri 2:35 Sat-Sun 12:50 Mon-Thu 2:30
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri 5:15-7:25-9:35 Sat-Sun 3-5:15-7:25-9:35 Mon-Wed 5:10-7:20-9:35 Thu 5:10-7:20
Ride Along (PG) Fri 2:25-5:30-7:55-10:25 Sat 12:30-2:55-5:30-7:55-10:25 Sun 12:30-2:55-5:30-7:55-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:20-7:45-10:10
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) Fri-Sun 4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Wed 4:10-7-9:55 Thu 4:10
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri 2:15-5:20-7:45-10:15 Sat 12:20-2:45-5:20-7:45-10:15 Sun 12:20-2:40-5:20-7:45-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:15-5:30-7:55-10:15 Wed 5:30-7:55-10:15 Thu 2:15-5:30-7:55-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 1-4:40-8:20 Sat-Sun 12:35-4:35-8:20 Mon-Thu 1-4:40-8:20

Eau Claire Market
200 Barlay Parade

American Hustle (14A) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30
August: Osage County (14A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:20-6:30-9:20 Mon-Tue 5:20-8:10 Wed 5:20 Thu 5:20-8:10
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Fri 6:40-10 Sat-Sun 1-3:40-6:40-10 Mon-Tue 5:40-8:20 Wed 8:20 Thu 5:40-8:20
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 6-8:50
Labor Day (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-7-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:50-8:40
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 7:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-7:50 Mon-Thu 7:45

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American Hustle (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:40-10:05 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 3:30-6:40-10:05
August: Osage County (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:20-9:20
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:10-7:05-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:05-9:55
Devil's Due (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 9:30
Frozen (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4
Frozen 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-6:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:10
Gravity: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-6:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-3:55-7:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:55-7:45
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:20-6:50-10:15
I, Frankenstein (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:05-6:05-9:40 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:05-9:40
I, Frankenstein: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:25-9:30
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:50 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Thu 4:10-6:50-9:50
Jai Ho (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:30-9:25 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 3:35-6:30-9:25
Labor Day (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:05-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:05-9
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 9:30
Lone Survivor (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:50-7-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7-10:05
The Monuments Men (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 7-9:45
The Nut Job (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:10
The Nut Job 3D (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-6:10-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:10-9
Philomena (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:25-3:40-6:25-9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:40-6:25-9:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 3:40
Ride Along (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-3:40-6:10-9:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Mon-Wed 3:40-6:10-9:10 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital, No Passes Thu 3:40-6:10-9:10
That Awkward Moment (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:10-6:20-9:40
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:10-4-8 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-8

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American Hustle (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-3:20-6:45-10
August: Osage County (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 9:50
Frozen 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-7:10
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8:15
I, Frankenstein (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:30
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30-10:15
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:20-10:20
Labor Day (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:20-9:40
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 9:45
Lone Survivor (14A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-3:40-7-10:10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Wed 3:40-7-10:10 Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 12:45-3:40-7-10:10
The Monuments Men (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Thu 9:30
The Nut Job (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:30
The Nut Job 3D (G) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-6:30
Philomena (PG) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 9:30
That Awkward Moment (18A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:30
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-3:50-8

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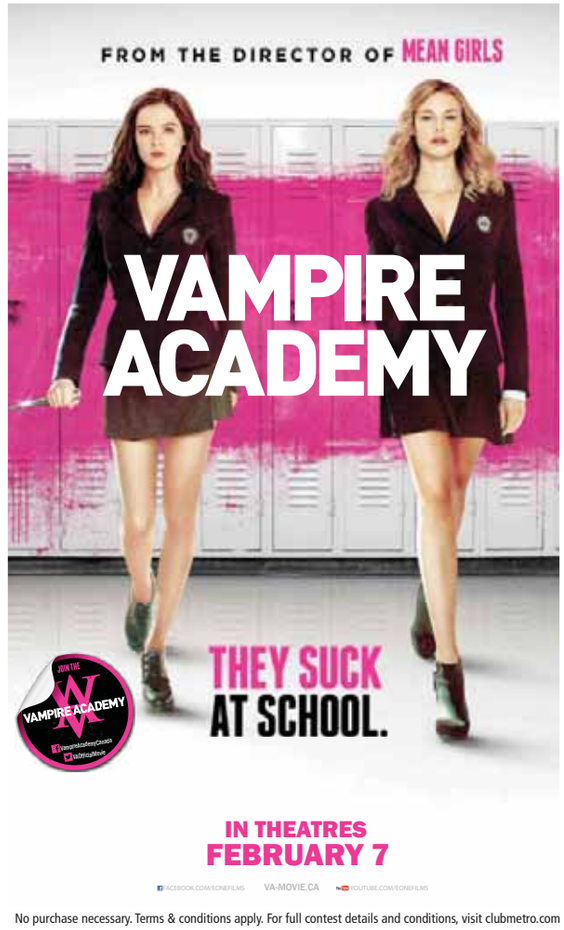

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12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 12:55-4-7:05-10:10
Akira (STC) Fri 2 Thu 7:15
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:20
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (14A) Fri-Sun 10:15 Mon-Thu 9:40
August: Osage County (14A) Fri-Sun 9:55 Mon-Thu 9:15
The Avengers (PG) Sat 6:50
Batman (STC) Sat 9:35 Wed 1
Battlestar Galactica (STC) Sun 12:30
Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (STC) Fri 7:15 Mon 5:30 Tue 2
Bolshoi Ballet: Lost Illusions (STC) Sun 12:55
Brazil (14A) Mon 12 Wed 9:50
The Dark Knight (PG) Sat 12 Wed 3:35
Devil's Due (14A) Fri-Sun 7:25-10 Mon-Thu 7:05-9:35
The Fisher King (STC) Mon 2:45 Tue 4 Wed 7
Flash Gordon (STC) Sun 7:30
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:25 Mon-Thu 12:50
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 5:05-7:45 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:45 Sun 4:40 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:15
Ghost in the Shell (STC) Fri 4:40 Thu 9:50
Gravity: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-5:50-8:10-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:40-4:25-7-9:50
Her (14A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 1-4-10:15 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sun 11:45 Mon-Thu 1:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3:20-7:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 5:20-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:25-6:50-10:15 Mon-Wed 2:45-6:30-10 Thu 2:45
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:15-10:25
Iron Man (PG) Sat 4:15
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-2:05-4:40-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:10-7:25-10:15
Labor Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 2-4:40-7:20-10:10 No Passes Thu 1-4:40-7:20-10:10
The Land Before Time (STC) Sat 11
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Thu 9:30
Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels (18A) Mon 7:30 Thu 2:45
Logan's Run (STC) Sun 10
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:45 Mon-Wed 1:15-4:05-7:10-10:05 Thu 12:20-4:05-7:10-10:05
Monty Python and the Holy Grail (14A) Fri 12 Tue 12 Thu 5:15
The Monuments Men (PG) Thu 7-9:50
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Sun 5:15-7:35 Mon-Thu 6:45
On Her Majesty's Secret Service (STC) Tue 7
Planet of the Apes (STC) Fri 9:20 Sun 5:10
Ride Along (PG) Fri-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:15-8:10-10:40 Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7:20-10
Snatch (18A) Mon 9:45 Thu 12:30
Spider-Man (PG) Sat 1:45
Superman (STC) Sat 11
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Wed 12:45-3:15-7-9:45 Thu 1-3:15-7-10:30
Thunderball (STC) Tue 9:50

I, Frankenstein. CONTRIBUTED

Tron (STC) Sun 3
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sun 2:40-6:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 1-5-9:20

Plaza Theatre
1133 Kensington Rd. N.W.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Sat 4:05 Sun 3
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Sat 9:30 Sun 5:35-9:20 Mon-Wed 9
No Films Showing Today (STC) Thu
Philomena (PG) Fri 7 Sun 1-7:30 Mon-Wed 7

Sunridge Spectrum

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American Hustle (14A) Fri 1:45-5-8:30 Sat 1:45-5:10-8:30 Sun 1:45-5-8:30 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:55-8:15 Thu 1:45-9:45
Bride for Rent (PG) Fri-Sun 1-5-9 Mon-Thu 1:05-6-9
Devil's Due (14A) Fri 10 Sat 9:35 Sun-Thu 10
Frozen (G) Fri 12:30 Sat 11:45 Sun 12:30 Mon-Tue 1 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 3:10-7 Sat 2:30-6:50 Sun 3:10-7 Mon-Thu 3:45-7
Frozen Sing-Along (STC) Fri 1:30-4:10 Sat 11-1:30-4:15 Sun-Wed 1:30-4:10 Thu 2-4:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri 1:25 Sat 12:25 Sun-Thu 1:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri 5:10-8:45 Sat 4:05-8 Sun 5:10-8:45 Mon-Thu 5-8:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 7-10:15 Sat 7-10:20 Sun 7-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:45
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri 12:55-3:30-7:55-10:25 Sat 12:55-3:30-6:40-9:10 Sun 12:55-3:30-7:55-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:20-6:45-9:20
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri 12:40-3:35-7:15-9:55 Sat 12:10-2:50-7:15-9:55 Sun 12:40-3:35-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:15-9:55
Jai Ho (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-6:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 1:20-6:10-9:30
Labor Day (PG) No Passes Fri 2-4:40-7:20-10:10 No Passes Sat 1:25-4:25-7:20-10:10 No Passes Sun 2-4:40-7:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Tue 1:30-4:10-7:10-10:05 No Passes Wed 4:10-7:10-10:05 No Passes Thu 1:30-4:10-7:10-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1:30
The Land Before Time (STC) Sat 11
The LEGO Movie 3D (G) Thu 9
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:50 Sat 12:50-3:45-6:55-9:50 Sun 12:45-3:45-6:55-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:15-6:55-9:50
The Monuments Men (PG) Thu 7-10
The Nut Job (G) Fri 1 Sat 1:10 Sun 1 Mon-Thu 1:35
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:40-7:30-9:45 Mon-Wed 4:05-7:20-9:45 Thu 4:05-6:30
Ride Along (PG) Fri 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Sat 11:30-2-4:30-7:05-9:40 Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Wed 1:50-4:35-7:05-9:40 Thu 1:50-4:30-7:05-9:40
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3-5:25-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 2-4:25-7:35-10:10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri 1:30-6-9:50 Sat 1:50-6-9:50 Sun 1:30-6-9:50 Mon-Wed 1:15-5:05-9:10 Thu 1:15

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American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:45-7-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:40
August: Osage County (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:50-6:45-9:40 Mon-Tue 6:10-9 Wed 9 Thu 6:10-9
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 12:30 Mon-Thu 5:35
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:15-6:30 Mon-Thu 8:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 9:25
I, Frankenstein 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 8:10
Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:05-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
Labor Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4-7:20-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:05-8:45
Lone Survivor (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:10 Mon-Tue 5:50-8:55 Wed 5:50 Thu 5:50-8:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff - Encore (STC) Wed 6:30
The Nut Job (G) Fri-Sun 12:40
The Nut Job 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3-5:30-7:45 Mon-Thu 5:45
Philomena (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:25
That Awkward Moment (18A) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:30-6:40-9:15 Mon-Thu 6-8:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Fri-Sun 1-4:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 8

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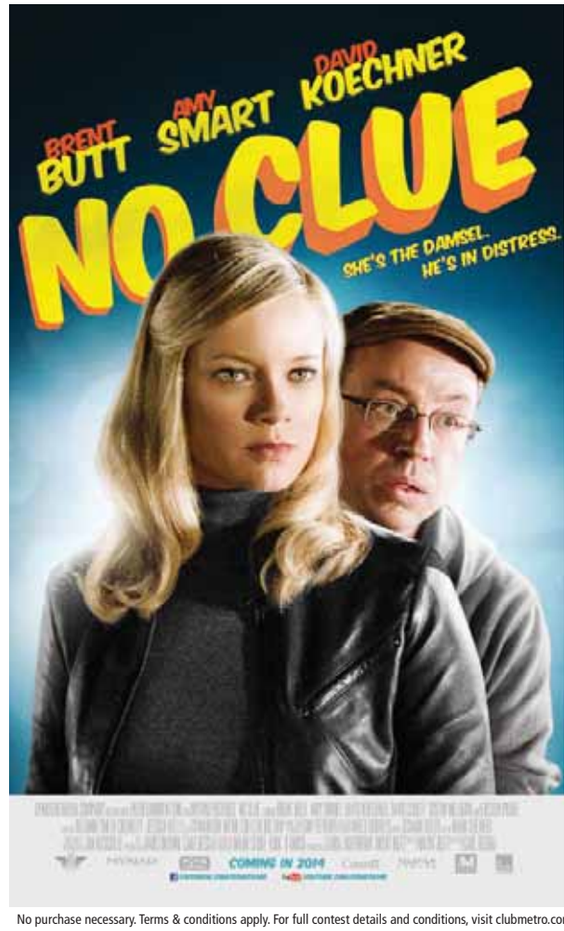

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Doozers are doing it for themselves

Doozers gained their own army of followers as characters on the Toronto-shot kids' show Fraggle Rock.
THE JIM HENSON COMPANY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Jim Henson Company. Once playing second fiddle to Fraggle Rock, the little engineers will now take centre stage

Watch it

- Doozers will available on the tvokids.com video player from Monday onwards.

When the fluffy-haired humanoids of the Toronto-shot puppet series Fraggle Rock became a hit in the '80s, their tiny co-stars also developed a fan following.

Lisa Henson, CEO of The Jim Henson Company, says the Doozers became so popular that her late puppet master dad and his collaborators discussed the idea of giving the chubby green engineers their own series. It took several decades, but the idea has finally come to fruition with the new computer-generated animated preschool series Jim Henson's Doozers.

"The Doozers were a lot of people's secret favourite thing about Fraggle Rock because they were always there, but we didn't get to know very much about them from the show," Henson said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles.

"They piqued a lot of people's curiosity. ... Everyone kind of wanted to peek into their world a little closer, get to know those characters: 'What are they building? What are they doing?'"

In Doozers, the stars are the Pod Squad of four young go-getters voiced by children: purple-clad Daisy Wheel, ginger-haired Spike, pink-loving Molly and yellow-wearing Flex. Together they seek new adventures and challenges in Doozer Creek, getting problem-solving advice from elders as they invent, build and tinker with a variety of devices.

Henson said the show features science, technology, engineering, art and math. It also has a theme of "perseverance and failure" as it aims to show "the actual process of design thinking and engineering."

"There has been so much recent discussion about the idea that kids should be encouraged to try things and fail and not be afraid to fail, so one of the kind of social-emotional threads that we pursued in the storytelling was that a lot of the things that they build don't work — or they don't work at first and with improvement and with additions or by collaborating on something they can get it to work," said Henson.

"We didn't just want to show them just finding instant success because in the real world success is rarely instant."

The series is co-produced by The Jim Henson Company and DHX Media in Canada, where Fraggle Rock was particularly popular and taped with a Canuck crew, said Henson.

"The people who worked on the original Fraggle Rock, all of them say that it was the best working experience of their lives and that making Fraggle Rock was a kind of pinnacle of their personal creativity.

"One of the reasons it was such a wonderful experience for the creators of the original show was that Jim Henson was very busy in England doing other things and he let them have a lot of freedom up there, so the show became very collaborative with other show runners. It wasn't Jim Henson being the show runner, so it allowed the other creators of the show to really thrive and make a show that they were all proud of."

The Pod Squad characters are not from the original Fraggle Rock that aired on CBC-TV.

Henson said they invented the new characters to suit the preschool demographic, making sure to split them evenly between genders and "be very forward-thinking about how the women on the show are portrayed."

Alas, Henson added that the Fraggles won't be making cameos on Doozers, but there is a Fraggle Rock feature film in development at New Regency Enterprises.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greg Kinnear plays Keegan Deane in Rake. CONTRIBUTED

Greg Kinnear needs no approval in Rake

Keegan Deane.
Actor plays talented, narcissistic lawyer who is homeless, in love with a hooker and $60,000 in debt

Details

Rake airs Thursdays on Global at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

Keegan Deane is that one friend we all have who just can't get his act together. He's the loveable screw-up, and he's the star of the new comedy series Rake.

Portrayed by Greg Kinnear, Deane owes nearly $60,000 to his bookie, has been crashing at his best friend's house for four months, and is in love with a prostitute who views their relationship as a business transaction. He's a narcissist in denial, but he's also a brilliant defence attorney who is incredibly charming.

"I don't think he has a great self-awareness of [his problems]," Kinnear says of his character. "It comes in fits and starts. There are moments where he has a little bit of reflection about where he's at on the map, but certainly, you know, out of the gate, very little."

Deane's ego — and his utter lack of interest in adhering to normal societal standards — drew Kinnear to the series, which is based on an Australian show of the same name. "I was intrigued immediately when I saw the mess of that guy," he says. "That kind of absolute lack of need for approval is a hugely attractive thing, especially if you're an actor. Getting to play that and getting to pursue a guy who's not necessarily interested in what you think was a really cool element for me."

Which is a good thing, because Deane's clients in upcoming episodes include a serial killer and a cannibal — not your typical underdog stories. And yet, Rake finds a way to make the audience root for the antihero. Kinnear chalks it up to the show's fine-tuned ability to weave comedy into dramatic storylines.

"It really struck a nice chord between the drama and the comedy, which is what appealed to me," Kinnear says.

AMBER M. RAY/METRO WORLD NEWS

Dig through NYC rubble in Shovel Ready

New book. Author Adam Sternbergh tells the story of Spademan, a trash collector turned assassin, in post apocalyptic New York

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News

What would it take for New York to return to the gritty, dangerous city it was pre-Bloomberg?

In a time when the city is only getting cleaner and more expensive, author Adam Sternbergh writes about a lawless, treacherous New York City in his novel Shovel Ready. The book is set in the near future after a bomb hits Times Square.

Those who can leave do, abandoning others with no options who must forge a new life in a deteriorating city. At the heart of the book is a former trash collector who becomes a hitman.

If you think this sounds like it would make a good movie, you aren't alone. The book was optioned by Warner Bros.

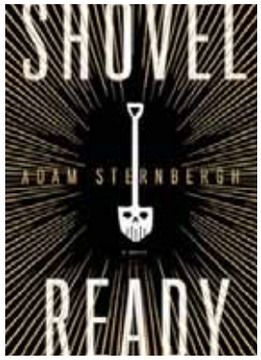
"I tried to convey the idea of what one character calls this incremental apocalypse," Sternbergh, who is the culture editor at New York Times Magazine, tells us. "The apocalypse stuff we see in movies and books is usually very dramatic, with aliens blowing up the Empire State Building or zombies overrunning the city."

Sternbergh says he was more interested in the idea of a change taking place slowly, similarly to what happened in many major U.S. cities during the '60s and '70s. He cites Detroit as a modern-day example. "It's not as dramatic as the terrorist element in the book, but Detroit is completely unrecognizable now (compared to what) it was 50 years ago," he says.

Spademan, the trash collector-turned-assassin, gives the book a dark undertone, and he's painted as a classic antihero. But besides the whole killing people part of his personality, you just might be able to relate to Spademan's cranky and familiar demeanor. "The thing I've always liked about hard boiled tales is that they are always exaggerated metaphors for real life," says Sternbergh.

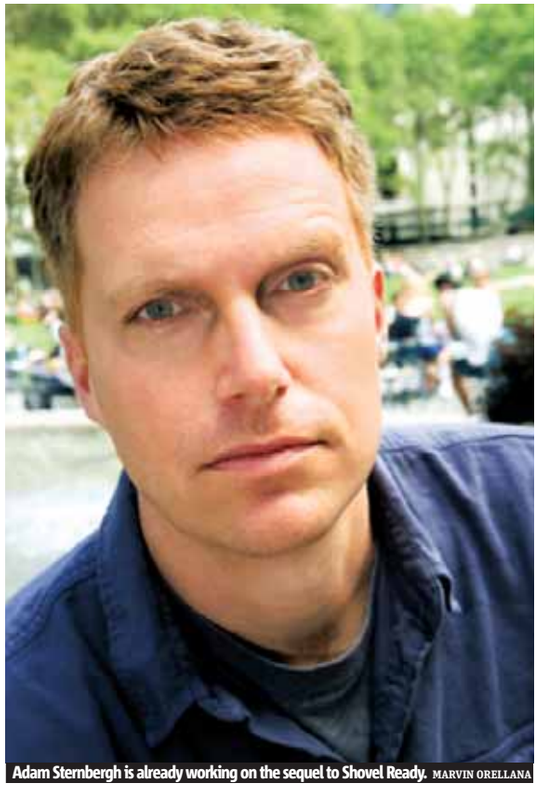
Shovel Ready also explores our relationship with technology. Wealthy city residents who choose not to leave cocoon themselves in a virtual reality, where all their fantasies can become real. When developing this idea for the novel, Sternbergh says it stemmed from the virtual age we live in now.

"There was something very familiar about the idea of getting lost in real life and the way in which having that technological outlet can sometimes cause us to ignore what's happening around us," he explains.



As someone who has been living in and reporting on New York for the past 10 years, Sternbergh says he certainly doesn't hope the city will descend into what is portrayed in the book, but he hopes it doesn't go too far in the other direction either.

Sternbergh says he fears that in a decade, New York City will feel museum-like, as Paris does, a beautiful city that exists for people to admire but lacking the energy and rebirth New York thrives on. "You have to imagine in 10 years the city is going to be very different than it is now, and I hope we're still be here to enjoy it. And that the Second Avenue subway will be open."


Adam Sternbergh is already working on the sequel to Shovel Ready. MARVIN ORELLANA

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